

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2011

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Joyce Singer Abrams, Mary Alcock, Gracia Molina de Pick, Shonee Henry, Tiffany Harrison, Gary Lynn,

Excused: Mark Dillon, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Teresa Oyos, Roberto Shim. Mitz Lee

Absent: George Mitrovich

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Pam Holmberg, Labor Relations, Heather Catron, HRC Legal Intern

Chair Abrams called the 232nd meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:53 PM

- **WELCOME**

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Alcock to approve the June 15, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lynn. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no non-agenda public comment.

- **ACTION AGENDA**

Old Business

1. Updates - Commission's 2011 Priority Issues and Work Plan

a. Hate Motivated Behavior

Commissioner Harrison reported that the sub-committee would like, as their next action, to host a forum on hate crimes with the Muslim community. They are working with the local Imam on a venue where the community would feel comfortable in attending. There were many suggestions, some outside of central San Diego. Executive Director Scarborough reported that the Police Department and District Attorney has offered support for the forum and will bring speakers and officers to the event.

b. Immigrant Rights and Reform

Commissioner Lynn attended a San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC) meeting where the guest speaker was the Chief Fisher (?) of the Border Patrol. He felt it was a helpful exchange and the presentation set up a good foundation for future dialog.

c. Educational Disparities

The committee encouraged the Commission to approach the School Board to request help in locating a non-voting teen member for the Commission. They would like the teen member to start by September.

d. Homelessness

No report

e. Outreach and Advocacy

The Commission will continue its outreach and advocacy as in the past including accepting complaints of discrimination.

f. HRC Awards and Commendations –

Vice Chair Henry reminded the Commission to reserve November 16 for the awards ceremony. She has approached Barona and Sycuan regarding sponsoring this year's event. The Awards committee will meet August 10 at 2:00 to discuss this year's awards.

2. Discrimination Law and Complaints

Human Relations Commission Legal Intern Heather Catron distributed a California and Federal Discrimination Law overview. The overview provided information on agencies that can help resolve discrimination issues and what elements they cover. Ms. Catron has been able to refer all of the requests for assistance to the Human Relations Commission to the proper agency to help them resolve their issues. She has also set up a reporting system to help the Commission track future inquiries.

New Business

1. Approve proclamation of October as Conflict Resolution Month and recognize training of 60 City Heights youth in conflict resolution skills.

Commissioner Abrams reported that October is Conflict Resolution Month and that San Diego will be hosting the national conflict resolution conference the same month. The conference committee is seeking proclamations from California Cities supporting Conflict Resolution Month. Commissioner Abrams would like the Commission to encourage the Mayor and Council to issue a proclamation supporting Conflict Resolution Month and also to recognize the 60 City Heights youth that are working on their conflict resolution skills. The youth are learning about conflict resolution this summer and will be participating in the conference. Commission Harrison asked if other youth could participate in the program. She was encouraged to contact Dana Brown about enrolling other students. Commissioner Henry made a motion that the Commission recommend the Mayor and Council make a proclamation recognizing Conflict Resolution Month and recognizing the training of 60 City Heights youth in conflict resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abrams and passed unanimously.

2. Approve establishment of the Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez Diversity in Media Award.

Chair Abrams led a discussion on the establishment of the Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez Diversity in Media Award. An attachment to the agenda provided further details of the award. There was support for a Diversity in Media Award but some members were reluctant to attach a specific Commissioner's name to the award. There is great respect for Commissioner Ramirez and all the work he has done in the media, but some Commissioners felt the award should come from the whole Human Relations Commission. There was discussion of perhaps retiring the process of

naming awards for individual commissioners. There was no consensus. The subject was tabled to next month's meeting. The Awards committee will discuss the proposed award and return with further details.

- **INFORMATION AGENDA**

Chair's Report

Councilmember Emerald's staff and UMI Learning Center leaders meeting

Chair Abrams and Executive Director Scarborough met with the UMI Learning Center staff and Chris Pearson of Councilmember Emerald's office. The UMI Learning Center is providing great services to the Somali community but is struggling to find the resources to keep their doors open. The Commission and Councilmember Emerald's office will continue to work with the Center to match them up with resources to help them achieve their goals.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Lynn attended the Parent Empowerment Summit. It was extremely informative and was a great example of what can be achieved when parents, administrators, teachers and politicians work together. He felt these types of events need to continue citywide.

Commissioner Molina de Pick reported that August 26 is the 40th Anniversary of the Women's Movement. There will be a parade in New York on August 16 commemorating the event.

Commissioner Lynn attended a Redistricting Commission meeting. It was well attended and the exchange between the Commission and the audience was interesting. Executive Director Scarborough will inquire about getting a report on the Redistricting Commissions progress at the August meeting.

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Awareness Event with Mayor's Committee on Disabilities – October 26th in morning at Balboa Park Club

Executive Director Scarborough invited the Commissioners to participate in the October 26 Disability Awareness Event which the Human Relations Commission and the Mayor's Committee on Disability will be co-sponsoring.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.